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Letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Russian Federation, as the State chairing the main bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States, I have the honour to transmit the text of the statement issued by the Heads of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (see annex).

I should be grateful if this statement could be distributed as a General Assembly document under agenda item 148 and as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) A. **Denisov**

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Annex

Statement by the Heads of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on combating international terrorism

The world community experienced great pain apprehending the tragic events in the Russian Federation in August and September 2004 that led to the loss of the lives of totally innocent people through the explosions on airliners and at a metro station in Moscow and the shooting of child hostages in North Ossetia.

The murderous practices of international terrorists who, select defenceless people for their victims and turn them into hostages of interests that are alien to them, are resolutely condemned by the peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), other States, the United Nations Security Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other international organizations.

The purpose of the cynical cruelty displayed by the terrorists' actions, which run counter to morality and humanity, is to intimidate peoples, paralyse their will, cause disunity and leave them spiritually defenceless in the face of the common danger threatening them. The terrorists who perpetrated the crimes against the Russian Federation constitute an extremely serious threat to every country in the world, without exception.

The Heads of the CIS member States express their full solidarity with the Russian Federation in its fight against terrorism and are convinced that only the concerted efforts of all civilized mankind in combating international terrorism will be able to prevent the spread of this evil, which has become a major threat to international security and stability in today's world.

Having encountered acts of international terrorism, the CIS member States confirm their steadfast determination to stand together in opposing all its manifestations and declare such acts to be purely criminal, having no justification, whatever the motive and regardless of where and by whom they are committed.

The Heads of the CIS member States support the call by the President of the United Nations Security Council in his statement of 1 September 2004 for all States to cooperate actively with the Russian authorities in their efforts to find and bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks against the Russian Federation and its citizens. They confirm their deep resolve uncompromisingly and tirelessly to combat this lethal threat, in accordance with the obligations of their States under the Charter of the United Nations.

Practical measures are being taken by the Commonwealth of Independent States to harmonize action in combating international terrorism and other contemporary challenges and threats. As the recent events have shown, however, these have proved inadequate. The priority is now the vital need to introduce without delay a comprehensive system of joint measures to combat terrorism and the criminal activities that accompany and nourish it.

To counter international terrorism effectively and protect the rights and freedoms of our peoples, we must be able to anticipate every manifestation of

terrorism and counteract it not only by unanimous condemnation on the part of all our countries but also by the eminent professionalism of our special services and the active implementation of all the international legal instruments established by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Heads of the CIS member States hereby instruct the relevant national structures to move forward as fast as possible on the preparation of a Concept of cooperation between the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in combating terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism that defines the CIS strategy and basic priorities in this field.

The Heads of the CIS member States will take all necessary action at the national level to enhance their contribution to the struggle waged by the international community against the threat of terrorism, with the central coordinating role of the United Nations. In that context, they put forward an initiative to hold the next special meeting of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations jointly with the CIS member States in the very near future.

Astana, 16 September 2004